MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We have no free hand in regard to finance bills.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I do not know whether he ever tried. The freedom is just the same in regard to finance bills as in the case of other bills.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Sir, I have got very great pleasure in supporting the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. I think the House agrees that the basis of assessment hitherto followed is not quite equitable. The excess portion, after leaving a margin for the subsistence not only of a man's wife but also his family, should alone be taxed; and any amendment to the Regulation keeping this in view will be quite welcome to this House as well as to the country, keeping in mind the super-incomes. The point of view of the Government *i. e.*, not bringing down the revenue may also be looked into. Withthese few words, I support the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Am I to take it that Mr. Thomas is for increasing the rate?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): On super-incomes.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In view of what has been said by Mr. Robinson, *viz.*, that this matter will receive consideration when the Income Tax Regulation is to be amended.—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): When it is next amended.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes; when it is next amended, this question should be considered. But my only request is that, for this very radical change, the Income Tax Regulation deserves to be amended and that too very early. It should not be left to chance. I would urge the necessity of taking up the revision of the Regulation as early as possible. With that request, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House agrees to the motion being withdrawn.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House votes Demand II, Rs. 14 lakh, on account of Taxes on Income.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·12 lakhs under Demand III—Excise.

Motion 37.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I beg to move the following motion:

37. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,675 under Salaries of Inspectors by Rs. 100.*

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My object in sending up this motion has been sufficiently explained in my Budget speech when I spoke about Rajakkamangalam and Colachel factories. I advocate the closure of these factories on the ground that they are contaminated by fresh water percolation. Any amount spent on them is of no use. The experience of the last few years shows that these factories have not produced any salt worth the trouble, and the money spent on their restoration and on account of establishment charges is mere waste.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does he know that everything possible has been done to improve these two *alloms*? Has he read the reports?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Yes.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Has he read the report which says that the measures for combating the fresh water percolation are being completed?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): It is not possible to prevent percolation.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Have they not served to improve it to a great extent?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): No. Improvement lies in manufacturing salt. No salt is produced.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is he satisfied that the brine supplied to this pan is what it should be?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): There is brine in the sea close by. Yet the manufacture of salt is absolutely impossible owing to fresh water percolation.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Is he aware that the Variyur salt factory, which was closed once on account of fresh water percolation, has now been reopened, and some salt is being produced?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): It is not producing any salt worth the trouble.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Does he mean that no salt is produced?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Some salt is produced, but it is not worth the trouble, considering the expenditure involved.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Does he know the amount of salt produced this year?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Very little.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Last year?

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MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : About 1,000 maunds. It is not sufficient to meet the establishment charges.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*) : Does he know the extent of this *allom*?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : About 4 acres.

These factories are of no use, and I consider that maintaining them for the purpose of developing them will result only in loss to Government.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know from Mr. Karayalar what the productive capacity is of the Rajakkamangalam *allom* under very favourable circumstances?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : Very little.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Has it ever produced salt?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : It produced a lakh of maunds, but that was years ago. Since the advent of Pechippara water, the production has gone down.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, I am against closing these two factories. There are two difficulties we have to contend with in working these factories. One is that of fresh water percolation. The extension of the Kodayar Project has brought in a plentiful supply of fresh water very near these factories. Consequently, there has been a good deal of percolation of fresh water into these factories. The other difficulty in working these factories is the difficulty in getting brine of a good quality and of sufficient quantity. With regard to the evil of percolation, Government have done certain works calculated to remove the fresh water that comes into the factories. Ring channels and conduits have been constructed. And with a little more expenditure and the use of Persian wheels, we shall be able to send out all the fresh water that comes into the ring channel. But the greater difficulty is the securing of proper brine. I have made proposals to Government whereby good and ample brine may be pumped into the pans from the sea.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*) : How long have the proposals been before the Government?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is some months since I sent up the proposal. Probably, owing to various reasons, it has not been possible for the Government to dispose of the matter till now. My point is that the Rajakkamangalam *allom* is capable of yielding one lakh maunds of salt and the Colachel *allom* about $\frac{3}{4}$ lakh maunds of salt. Thus, both these *allums* together will yield about $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs maunds of salt, if good brine can be supplied.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know on what basis the calculation is made?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): On the basis of the outturn in previous years. As I said, the outturn of these two factories will be about $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs maunds which means that, if instead of working these factories, we imported foreign Salt, about one lakh of rupess would go out of the State annually. We would be able to prevent this drain on the State if we put these factories into working order. In view of the development of the salt industry on which, I believe, the motion of one of the members bears, I think it is inadvisable to close these factories, which, with a little more expenditure, may be made to produce a good deal of salt.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the expenditure that will be required for this purpose?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): About Rs. 15,000. That is my rough estimate.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): For both together?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I would oppose the motion to abolish these two factories, as it is desirable to develop the industry so as to produce a sufficient quantity of salt to meet the needs of the State.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion; and, in doing so, I beg to point out, as the Excise Commissioner himself has pointed out, that these two *alloms* were producing a large quantity of salt before the completion of the Kodayar Irrigation Scheme, but later on, the factories have been spoiled by the percolation of fresh water. It is not very difficult to prevent such percolation, provided the Government are prepared to spend some money for the purpose. Of course, Government will be repaid the money, if they take the work in hand as early as possible. I have already dwelt upon this subject at length during the general discussion of the Budget. My idea is that Government are not paying sufficient attention to the improvement of these salt factories. These are two of the old *alloms* where licensees do not get sufficient encouragement. They get, as I said the other day, only about $4\frac{1}{2}$ chackrams per maund. That is not sufficient remuneration.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): He says the licensees do not get sufficient encouragement. I asked the Rajakkamangalam licensees whether they preferred the excise system. They said "no", and preferred the present system.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): I am not aware of that. I do not think so. But, I take his word. If they agree to continue the present arrangement, Government should spend money and remove the difficulty experienced by the want of sufficient brine.

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[Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.]

The chief difficulty that these two *alloms* are suffering from is that caused by the percolation of fresh water and it can be easily drained away if Government would spend a small amount. If good brine is supplied, it would be possible to begin manufacturing salt immediately after a rain. What they actually do at present, when the factory is flooded by rain water, is to allow the water to remain in the *alloms* and by the time the water comes down below the level of the pans, another rain comes in and thus the manufacturing season expires. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that, if Government intend taking up the question of developing the salt industry, they must do so without delay. And if they are prepared to appoint a committee to go into this question and to do whatever is necessary in the matter, it is better. On the other hand, if the Government have no idea of helping them, we cannot expect the licensees to take up all these works. I know it is beyond their power.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): These works have to be done by Government. All major works will have to be done by Government, since the factory is a monopoly factory.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): As Mr. Van Ross has pointed out, if there is no need for going in for the excise system, then it is better for the Government to take up the work soon in hand; and if there is a good brine supply, the factories are capable of producing, as the Excise Commissioner has said, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of maunds of salt. His schemes are before the Government. I think it is not time yet to think of closing these factories.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the member is in a position to assure the Council that the scheme suggested by the Excise Commissioner will be a successful one.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): I am not aware of the details of the scheme.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner——

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Mr. Karayalar is out of order in asking a question, because the Excise Commissioner is not now in possession of the House.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): In view of the assurance given by Mr. Van Ross that a lakh and seventy five thousand maunds of salt could be produced annually I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 38.

The following motion was not moved the member being absent:

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI:

38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,515 for Salaries of Inspectors by Rs. 100.

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Motion 39.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

39. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,452 for Salaries and Establishment by Rs. 9,372.

ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിലെ ജീവനക്കാരിൽഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ, ഫ്ഠ പെററി ആഫീസർ നന്നു ശിപായിമാർ, ഇവരെ യാതൊരു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ക്രടാതെ കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുയും ജിവനക്കാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് കഴിഞ്ഞ തവണ ഇതേ സമയത്തു് മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യകുരയാളർ ഒരു മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടു വരികയും കൌൺസിലിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രതിവാദിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. മിസ്റ്റർ കുരയാളർ അവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പു കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ ഒരാളും അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികളെപററി നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്ന ഒരാളുമാണ്. മിസ്റ്റർ കുരയാളരുടെ വാദങ്ങൾക്ക് അന്നത്തെ അക്ടിംഗ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ പലല സമാധാനങ്ങളും പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ ഫാക്ടറികളിലും ധാരാളം ഉപ്പുണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നും അതുകളെ തൂക്കി ഏററു സൂക്ഷിക്കയും വിൽക്കയും ചെയ്യുണ്ടതു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ആണെന്നും ഇതിനും പുറമെ ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന ബ്രൈൻ പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതും നല്ല ഉപ്പിൽ നിന്നും ചീത്തഉപ്പിനെ വേർതിരിച്ചു മാറേറണ്ടതും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരാണെന്നും പറഞ്ഞിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

ഈ ജോലികൾ എല്ലാദിവസവും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതല്ലാ. ഈ ജോലികളിൽ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന് ന്നു മാസത്തേ് ശമ്പളം ഡോമണിവയ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പെററിആഫീസറന്മാർ ഉണ്ടു്. നമ്മുടെ ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളം ഉപ്പുകൃഷിവർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ശമ്പളക്കാരേയും ശമ്പളചിലവുകളേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് എല്ലാവക്കും സന്തോഷമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പുകൃഷിക്കായുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളും അതിലെ വിളവും കുറഞ്ഞുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഇവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൻസ്-ൽ ൪,൦ ഫ ൨,ഫ വു മന്നു് വിളഞ്ഞ് കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു് ഫ ൦ ൻൻ-ൽ ന,ർ ൦ ൦,ന ൪ മന്നായി കുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഉപ്പുകൃഷിചെയ്യുവരുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ വർദ്ധനയെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഫ ൦ ൻ൬-ൽ ർ ഫൻ ഏക്കറായിരുന്നതു് ഫ ൦ ൻൻ-ൽ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

നന്നാ ഏക്കറായികുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഉപ്പുപാത്തികളിൽ നിന്നും ഉപ്പുവിളഞ്ഞുകിട്ടുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിനോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ ഏക്കറൊന്നിന് ഫാക്ടറിക്ക് മുമ്പ് ഉപ്പ് വിളഞ്ഞുകിട്ടിയിരുന്നത് ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ നിർമാണമായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഉപ്പളങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഓരോ ദിവസവും ക്ഷയിച്ചു വരുമ്പോൾ ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ വാരിയൂർ അളത്തിലേക്കു ഒരു സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ, രണ്ട് പെറ്റിഓഫീസറന്മാർ ആറ് ശിപായിമാർ ഇത്രയും പേരെ കൂടുതലായി നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ശമ്പളചിലവുകളെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ ഒരു ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ, ഫാക്ടറിയിൽ പെറ്റിഓഫിസറന്മാർ, നന്നാ ശിപായിമാർ ഇവരെകുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, as mentioned by the member, exactly the same motion was moved by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar last year. The question was fully discussed not only in 1099, but also in 1097 and 1098. It is not necessary therefore that I should traverse the whole ground again. The grounds then urged consisted mainly in giving a recital of the various items of work to be attended to by the staff. I think a mere recital of the work will only weary the House; because, unless one has actual experience of the work, one will not be able to understand the volume of the work. In the reorganisation of 1098, I specially studied the staff of every factory and I made a reduction on that occasion. I disbanded 39 men—4 Petty Officers and 35 peons. We have reached the irreducible minimum. It is not possible, with my knowledge of the requirements of the factories, in view of the safety of the salt stored and the quality of the salt that should be manufactured to make a further reduction.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): In which year was the reduction made?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In 1098.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ആ ആണ്ടിൽ തന്നെ ഒരു സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ, രണ്ടു പെറ്റിഓഫീസർ, ആറ് ശിപായിമാർ ഇവരെ കൂട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That was for the Variyur *allom* which is a new factory. I am speaking of the Tamarakulam factories. In the matter of storing and selling the salt, and in the other important matters in the factory, the responsibility should

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rest with the Inspector. I am sorry I could not conscientiously reduce the staff. Mr. Kumara Pillai mentioned that the out-turn in the factories from 1096 onwards has been going down. I admit it with great regret. But it is not due to any want of encouragement of the licensees or to lack of endeavours on the part of the licensees themselves. We have one or two licensees here who would testify to the statement. Untimely rain was the reason why the out-turn was very low; some licensees were able to discover brine wells and had to spend much money to dig these wells in order to get brine to manufacture salt. But other licensees were not able to manufacture salt. Sea brine is about 3° in density. When sea brine comes into the lake at Manakkudi, which is full of fresh water, the brine is diluted and will not be more than ½° in density. It takes a very long time to condense this brine and the manufacture is delayed. We have had continued bad weather which was a regular feature for the past three years. These are the factors which have tended to the decline in the out-put. I have written to the Government about the necessity of making arrangements for supplying good brine. I think the matter is with the Chief Engineer. I do not know exactly at what stage it is; but I have not had the final orders of Government. When my proposal is granted, the out-put of salt will be satisfactory.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : പഴയാറിന്റെ വിസ്താരം കുറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ട് ഉപ്പളങ്ങൾക്കു കേടു പറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I believe the member refers to the Manakkudi lake. പഴയാറിന്റെ വിസ്താരം കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലാ. മണക്കുടി കായലിന്റെ വിസ്താരം കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : മണക്കുടികായലിന്റെ ഇരുവശങ്ങളും ഉപ്പളങ്ങൾക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതിൽവന്നിട്ടുള്ള വിസ്താര കുറവു ഉപ്പളങ്ങൾക്കു ദോഷമായി വന്നിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The restriction in the area of the lake has not affected the out-put. But it has affected the safety of the factories since, during flood times, the waters over-run the factories and destroy them.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : അതിന്റെ വിസ്തരം കൂട്ടണമെന്നുള്ളതിനു എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. But that is on account of the damage to the factories bordering the river. The reason why the Manakkudi lake cannot hold brine of the density of the sea water is because of the extension of the Kodayar Project work from which fresh water constantly comes into the lake and prevents good brine being stored there.

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MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I ask Mr. Van Ross whether there was not a suggestion to divert the Pazhayar?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, there was a suggestion; but the Chief Engineer said it was not feasible. That is why I have suggested an alternative proposal, *viz.*, installation of pumping apparatus for the supply of brine to the factories. The scheme is with the Government. Mr. Kumara Pillai said that Mr. Karayalar has experience of the salt factories; his opinion is therefore of some value. I may say in reply that Mr. Karayalar's interests in the salt business are different from the interests of the Government. His interest is limited to 2 or 3 annas in the maund while that of Government is Rs. 1¼ per maund. A licensee will therefore be very generous in making cuts on the establishment, but the Government have to be very careful as otherwise the theft of salt will be very considerable.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇപ്പോൾ ആ അങ്ങനെ മോഷണം പോകുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. There was a recent instance. A man was killed the other day by a peon while attempting to steal.

I am, however, prepared to give up 2 Petty officers and 9 peons, the staff sanctioned for Ponniah Nadar's factory. This Ponniah Nadar's factory has failed and I have cancelled his license.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, Mr. Kumara Pillai seems to have based his motion on the fact that, for the last two or three years, that is, for 1098, 1099 and 1100, there was not sufficient production of salt in the various factories. I personally know that, in the years 1098, 1099 and 1100, we were able to produce very little salt from these factories. In these years we have suffered very much on account of the rains. Tai *pani*, that is the period from Margali to Vaikasi, is the chief season for the manufacture of salt; and during these three years whenever we began the manufacture we got a rain, then we put off the work for a month. Similarly there were other occasions also in which we had to stop our work. In this fashion we have been getting frequent rains during the last three years and consequently the out-put has gone down. But that is not reason enough to reduce the number of the protective staff. Of course, if we had a good season, we could have produced at least three-fourths of the salt we have been producing in the previous years. But there is a general reduction of salt in these factories. But on that ground I do not think the present staff should be reduced in the various factories.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 40 and 41.

The following motion was not moved:

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

40. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,950 for petty construction and repair by Rs. 500.

The member being absent, the following motion was not moved

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI:

41. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,195 for salaries of Inspectors by Rs. 100.

Motion 42.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

42. To omit the allotment of Rs. 30,000 for transport charges of salt.

My object is, in the first place, to thank the Government for having graciously been pleased to grant compensation to Messrs. Avadhanial for the heavy loss sustained by them among others during the flood of 1098. I am glad to note that the Excise Commissioner was kind enough to recommend to Government to recoup at least a portion of the loss.

PRESIDENT: In what way is this relevant to your motion?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I shall explain later on. A concession was given by remitting the salt due from Mr. Avadhanial for last year and this year, and I hope the Government will give the very same concession to other factory owners. Since 1098 the factories have deteriorated considerably on account of the percolation of fresh water and the decrease in the salinity of the lake-water. If the licensees give all the salt due to the Government, they will have to go without anything. So, I pray the Government to grant the concession granted to Mr. Avadhanial—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the nature of the concession granted to Mr. Avadhanial? Is it that he need not produce any salt?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): The original condition in the agreement was that each licensee should give the Government a fixed quantity of salt, say 20,000 or 50,000 maunds of salt. Now we are not able to produce even that quantity. I request that, irrespective of the quantity manufactured, the Government should not demand their dues. In the case of Mr. Avadhanial, the concession was granted. What I pray for is that the other licensees who were equally or more affected should get at least the concession granted to Mr. Avadhanial.

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PRESIDENT: I am afraid it is not relevant to your motion. The motion is for the omission of the transport charges. Will the member kindly explain the relevancy of what he says?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Salt is to be tranported to Quilon; the Government demand all the quantity that is produced. Suppose a licensee produces only 5,000 maunds of salt. If he is to give all that to Government, what is he to do?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it suggested by the member that the salt produced by Messrs. Avadhanial need not be given to Government, and that they will have to pay nothing?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Are they not under a contract?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Yes, but this is a concession given under peculiar circumstances.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I ask Mr. Karayalar whether, if the concession is granted, the amount will be required, and whether, if the concession is not granted, the allotment will not be required?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): If the concession is granted, the amount will not be required.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then the best thing for him is to apply for the concession first.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I have already applied for the concession and the Government are bound to allow the remission.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that the member is in order in asking for certain concessions or the extension of certain concessions as a result of this motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I am not asking for a concession, but I am saying that the same concession granted to one licensee should be extended to all the licensees and that, in that case, the amount will not be required.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid the connection between the concession and this motion is too remote for me to accept.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, Government transport salt from the factories to the depôts annually. Salt so transported is the salt due to Government from the licensees. Mr. Karayalar and other licensees have applied for remission of the salt due from them and he thinks that, if those remissions are granted, there will be no transport and probably the allotment will not be wanted. He thinks that, if the allotment is not granted, then the transport will not be possible, and Government will be obliged to allow the remission.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you need labour that point.

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Then I will not. If there is no salt and the Government decide to grant the licensees the concession prayed for, then the money will not be utilised. If otherwise, the money will be necessary.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : On the assurance of the Excise Commissioner that the Government will be pleased to make the remission, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT : I do not think any such assurance has been given.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): They intend to make the remission.

PRESIDENT : He has not said that they even intend.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion, was by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 43:

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

43. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

ഈ ഇനത്തിലെചിലവു ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ വദ്ധിച്ച് വരുന്നത ന്യായമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ൫൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Instead of the amount increasing year by year, the actuals for 1099 were only Rs. 900. I have put the amount at Rs. 1,500 in the budget for this year because that was the allotment for the previous year. There are certain reasons why, in spite of the actuals of 1099, it is necessary to provide for Rs. 1,500. This amount includes office expenses as well as wastage of salt in the depôts.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഈ രണ്ടിനങ്ങളും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർക്കാതെ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകമായി വയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലേ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : സാധിക്കും. Yes, if the House wishes it. Wastage of salt is an uncertain quantity. In one year the wastage will be very little and in another year it will be very high. In the latter case, I will have to come to the Council for a supplementary grant. In 1097, the expenditure under this head was Rs. 1,589. In 1096, it was Rs. 1,800. I have no objection to accept the cut. Only I will have to come up again for a supplementary grant if there is a heavy wastage. I think the House will say then that I had no forethought

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ൯൯-ൽ ൯൭൦ രൂപായെ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതിൽ ഉപ്പിന്റെ കുറവും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു. ആഫീസ് എക്സ്പെൻസ്, മിസലേനിയസ്സ് എന്നു രണ്ടിനങ്ങളേയും ഒന്നായിക്കൂട്ടിചേത്തിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു അതി

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങളുടെ ഇണങ്ങോഷനിരൂപണത്തിന്ന വഴിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്ന. എല്ലാഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലും ഇങ്ങനെ രണ്ടുചിലവുകളേയും ഒന്നായിക്കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു കാണുന്ന. അതുകൊണ്ടു രണ്ടും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം ആക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ൻ൯-ൽ ഇതുയും ശുപാർചിലവാക്കീട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും ഫ ഫ ഠ ഫ-ാമാണ്ടിൽ ഇതുയും ശുപാർചിലവാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഓരോഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറധികൃതന്മാരും നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു വലുതായ ഒരു തുകയായി ശുപീകരിക്കുന്നതാണു്.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): ലാഭം എടുക്കാനൊ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): ഈ ഇനത്തിലേയ്ക്കു അനുവദിക്കുന്നതുക അതും മോഷ്ടിക്കുന്നുഎന്നു് ഞാൻപറയുന്നില്ല. മിതമായിട്ടു ചിലവാക്കിലാഭം എടുത്താൽ ഒരു വലിയ തുക മിച്ചം വരുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുംമെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞതു. എതായിരുന്നാലും ൻ൯-ലെ തുകയിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, Mr. Kumara Pillai referred to the combination of two heads—office expenses and miscellaneous. That was done with a view to avoid the multiplication of sub-heads.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I rise to a point of order. Mr. Kumara Pillai was giving his reply. After that, only the official member in charge can speak.

PRESIDENT: If Mr. Kumara Pillai wishes to have these two heads split up, it can be done. The only reason why they are included in one head is that Government do not want to have more sub-heads.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): എന്റെ പ്രമേയം വോട്ടിനിടേണം.

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—16.

1.	Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai	10.	Mr. R. Padmanabhan
2.	,, A. K. Pillai	11.	,, G. Parameswaran Pillai
3.	,, N. Kumaran	12.	,, Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai
4.	,, T. Kumara Pillai	13.	,, G. Raman Menon
5.	,, Tariatu Kunjitomman	14.	,, Sivarama Panikkar
6.	,, Kallur Narayana Pillai	15.	,, M. Sivatanu Pillai
7.	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai	16.	,, C. P. Tarakan
8.	,, K. P. Nilakanta Pillai		
9.	,, M. N. Pillai		

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NOES—20.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko	11. Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
2. ,, J. B. Cook	12. ,, W. H. Pitt
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	13. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose
4. ,, K. George	14. Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
5. ,, S. Gnana Joshua	15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar
6. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
7. Mr. X. G. Lopez	17. ,, J. Stephenson
8. ,, K. Narayanan Pandalay	18. ,, V. Subba Aiyar
9. ,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar	19 ,, C. P. Thomas.
10. ,, N. Nilakanta Pillai	20. ,, A. J. Van Ross

PRESIDENT: Sixteen *for* and twenty *against*. The motion is lost.

Motion 44.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the following motion:

44. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 54,000 for Salt Business by Rs. 100.

My object in bringing forward this motion is to discuss the possibility of making our country self-contained in salt. During the Budget discussion, much stress was laid on the necessity of industrialising our land. I believe an attempt at producing salt in our country for our consumption will go a great way in that direction. I remember that this question, though somewhat in a different line, was very ably dealt with by Mr. Hoogewerf whose presence we sorely miss on this side of the House this time (Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai: *Hear, hear*). From the annual report of the Excise Commissioner, we learn that the salt which was consumed in 1099 was about 10,76,000 and odd maunds as against 10,56,000 and odd maunds in 1098. So we see that the consumption is increasing year by year. The production in 1099 amounted to only 3,33,000 and odd maunds as against 5,22,000 and odd maunds in 1098. The Excise Commissioner explains these facts by saying that it was due to extraordinary weather conditions in 1099. We may accept his statement.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Not only in 1098, but during 1099 and 1100 also.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I was comparing these two years only. We may, for the time being, accept the statement of the Excise Commissioner. In 1098, we see that almost half the quantity of salt required for our consumption was produced in this country itself.

In this connection, I must refer to the points raised by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar with regard to the closing of one or two *alloms*. I may also point out there are certain natural defects in our

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[Mr. K. Sivarama Panikkar]

allums as regards the percolation of fresh water and also the want of dense brine. However hard we may combat against the percolation of fresh water and whatever may be the means employed to procure an adequate supply of brine, I believe we cannot produce all the quantity of salt required by us unless and until the Salt Department is separated from the Excise Department and put under the immediate control of a special officer, directly under the supervision of the Dewan. This special officer must be a full-time officer. If such an officer is appointed, I believe that Travancore can produce all the salt required for its consumption. I am sure the members on this side of the House are at one with me when I say that we can and should produce all the salt required for our consumption. They may differ from me only when I say that a separation should be effected between the Salt Department and the Excise Department, on the ground that it may entail a heavy expenditure on the part of the Government. To me, Sir, it seems that no heavy expenditure is necessary. Of course, when a separation is made, it may mean the entertainment of a high-paid officer and a well-manned staff. I will even go to the extent of suggesting that the present staff employed there will be enough, for the time being, to manage the affairs of the salt factories. An Assistant Excise Commissioner, who has had some special training in the management of salt factories, should be appointed to control and manage them. I may also point out in this connection that the policy of transferring the Assistant Excise Commissioners once in two years should not be applied to the case of the Assistant Excise Commissioner who manages the *ailoms*. Of course, they will have to pick up a certain amount of practice there ; and if men with sufficient experience are not procurable, one of the officers may be deputed to go over to some of the *allums* in other places such as Bombay and gain experience there. They may then introduce improved methods of industry here. In this way, I think that, in two or three years' time, we can manage to produce all the salt required by our country. I hope this proposal will not be considered with disrespect by the members of this House. I believe that every member will pay due attention to this statement and consider it in all its details. Hoping that it would receive the consideration that it requires, I resume my seat.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : മിസ്റ്റർ ശിവരാമപ്പണിക്കർ പറയുന്നതായ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി യോജിക്കാൻ അശേഷം നിവർത്തി ഇല്ലാ. എന്തെന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പ്രത്യേകം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് സൃഷ്ടിച്ച് അത് വേറെ ആകുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ചിലവുവർദ്ധിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് യോജിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തി ഇല്ലെന്ന പറഞ്ഞത്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മിഷണരെ മാത്രം ആ ജോലിനോക്കാൻ ഏല്പിക്കയും ഇപ്പോൾ അ

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ശമ്പളത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെക്കൊണ്ട് തന്നെ ജോലിനടത്തിക്കാമെന്ന് വച്ചാലും—സാധാരണയായിട്ട് നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് കണ്ടു വരുന്നപതി വന്നുരിച്ചു്—പ്രത്യേകം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറായിതീർന്നാൽ ക്രമേണ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടാൻ ഉള്ള ആവലാതി പുറപ്പെടുന്നതിനും തന്നിമിത്തം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെമേൽ ദയവു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകും. അങ്ങിനെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു് കുറെ കഴിയുമ്പോഠം ജോലിഅധികമാണെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ടു് പേർസനൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരും മറ്റും വേണമെന്ന് ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടേക്കാം. പ്രത്യേക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ചിലവ് വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ ഉപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കൂടുതൽപരിചയമുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ നീലകണ്ഠൻ എന്ന ആളെ ആ ജോലി ഏല്പിക്കണമെന്നു പല മെംബറന്മാരും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഇപ്പോഠം അദ്ദേഹം തന്നെ ആ ജോലിനോക്കി വരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് പരിചയം പോരാ എന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കുറെക്കൂടി പരിചയിക്കുന്നതിനു ബ്രിട്ടീഷിലൊ മറെറാ ർ-ഒ മാസത്തേക്ക് അയക്കുന്നതിന് വിരോധമില്ല. ഉപ്പു വകുപ്പു ഒരു പ്രത്യേകം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാക്കുന്നതു് പലവിധത്തിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ചിലവു് വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനു കാരണമാകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ പണിക്കരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not expect that the member, while proposing to discuss the possibility of producing locally the salt necessary for the State, was also going to propose the separation of the Salt and Excise Departments. Nevertheless, I might say that this question of the separation was discussed in the budget meeting in 1099 and was not passed. In deference to the wishes of the House, I have appointed Mr. Nilakantan, an Assistant Excise Commissioner who has had some experience of salt manufacture and salt factories in British India, in charge of that Division. He is vested with important powers in the management of the Salt Factories. Though the Excise Commissioner is the head, his power have been freely delegated to the Assistant at the factories, he has in fact no control over it. Only certain general powers are reserved with him. All the powers that are necessary for the development of the Salt Factories are in the hands of Mr. Nilakantan, so that nothing would be gained by a complete separation of the two Departments.

Secondly, the separation of the two Departments is likely—

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Are the factories provided with laboratories and the necessary chemical appliances?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Government have just passed a big estimate for providing the factories with a laboratory and the necessary chemicals and appliances.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): How long has this scheme been under consideration?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The scheme would come into effect, most probably, from the 1st of Chingam 1101.

There will also be another difficulty if the two departments are separated. We have two frontiers, one at Tinnevelly and the other at Cochin. The Excise Department is now doing the function of preventing the smuggling of salt into Travancore. We have to be there to prevent the smuggling of other articles such as copra, coir, opium, ganja and arrack. Now we are doing this function in the case of salt also. Once the Departments are separated, the men will naturally lose their interest in salt and the Salt Department will find that they will have to employ another agency altogether to prevent the smuggling of salt. I do not find any real need for the separation of the two departments, and even consider that the separation would be productive of harm, besides entailing unnecessary expenditure.

The decrease in the output of salt during the last two or three years was due to the want of brine of the required density and to unseasonal rain. As regards this, I believe that my friends Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar and Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai have testified to the fact. That is really the reason why the output is small. I have made certain recommendations to the Government for the supply of brine to these *alloms* and I hope they will meet with favourable consideration from Government. If, even after these proposals are given effect to, it is found that the output is small, then the member may make other proposals. At present I do not see any reason why the two departments should be separated.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Excise Commissioner inform us whether the output is greater this year than it was last year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No. This year the output is small compared with last year because the weather was bad. I visited the factories in South Travancore in Minam last. While I was there, a sudden and unseasonal rain spoiled all the salt collected on the ridges. I believe—

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Is there any chance of the weather clearing up in the future? (*Laughter.*)

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I do not think that this bad weather will continue for ever. At any rate we expect better weather. There is no lane but has a turning.

The highest outturn per acre of pan area hitherto obtained was 2,725 maunds. We have about 427 acres of pan area so that, if we get this outturn, we shall be getting about 13 lakhs of maunds per year. Our needs are only about 11 lakhs of maunds. All that we want now is good brine. If this is obtained, I think we shall be able to produce as much salt as is needed.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Referring to page 18 of the Report on the Administration of the Excise Department for 1099, the first column.—

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Paragraph, please.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : The first line on page 18.

The following statement gives the full particulars connected with the import and sale of Tinnevelly salt during the year by the contractor engaged for the Alleppey Depot. The statement shows that the quantity sold during the year came up to 3,20,566 maunds.

Does it represent the actual quantity of Tinnevelly salt sold during the year in the Alleppey Depôt ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Then the next statement shows the stock issued and the balance of Tinnevelly salt in the depôts and bankshalls. There, the quantity sold during the year is given as 92,620 maunds. What does that represent ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : It represents the amount of Tinnevelly salt sold in the Quilon Depôt. Mr. Karayalar's Salt at Alleppey does not come within this statement.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : So that, in the total import and sale of salt in paragraph 74, Mr. Karayalar's salt is not included ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : No.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : From the balance of the stock, I find that, at the end of the year, the balance was 6,21,945 maunds and home salt 3,59,479 maunds. The report says that a certain amount had to be written off because that was washed away by rain. I find that there was a balance stock of 7,31,431 maunds at the beginning of the year. The production of home salt was about 3,40,063 maunds. That will make about 10 lakhs and odd maunds. The real consumption was only 7,43,971 maunds. Why then did the Excise Commissioner import 4 lakhs maunds of foreign salt ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Because the total consumption of the State will come to about 10½ lakhs maunds annually.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Will that include Mr. Karayalar's importation also ?

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Letting alone that, it is only 7,44,000 maunds.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Are you speaking of home salt?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am speaking of consumption. Under paragraph 74, apart from Mr. Karayalar's imports and consumption, Bombay salt and home salt to the extent of over 6,00,000 in 1099 is added. I have deducted the amount written off and arrived at the actual figures. That represents the actual production of 3 lakhs and odd maunds?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): And the actual consumption was only 7,43,000 maunds. So, while you wanted only about 1,00,000 maunds more, the Department seems to have imported Bombay and Tinnevelly salt to the extent of 4 lakhs of maunds.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): To which statement does the member refer?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Everything is there, the balance of stock at the beginning of the year, the quantity received during the year, the quantity written off, the quantity available for issue, the quantity sold, including deficiency for which value was realised, and the balance of stock at the end of the year—in fact everything is there in the table.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): We have got down about 3,50,000 maunds of Bombay salt.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): And 1,52,102 maunds of Tinnevelly salt. On the whole, it comes to $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds. While only one lakh of maunds more was required for consumption, why did the department import $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The whole quantity available for issue including the quantity received during the year is 13,65,916 maunds. That includes the stock for 18 months. We generally get a supply for 18 months to provide against accidents, delays, breaches in the railways and other similar contingencis. That is why we have 13 lakhs of maunds.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In the column available for issue, there is said to be a stock of 7 lakhs of maunds of home salt. I think it ought to be 10 lakhs. Why is the quantity available for issue smaller than the quantity received during the year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Because there was a quantity written off the accounts owing to the damages by the floods.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then, that is all right. How much was the actual consumption?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was about $10\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of maunds.

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : No. It is 7,43,971.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Where is that figure ?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Under the column "Quantity sold, including deficiency for which value was received," the total quantity consumed was 7,43,971 maunds.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The quantity sold is that. That is excluding Mr. Karayalar's salt which comes to about 3 lakhs of maunds.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : That is not brought into this account at all.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : As I told you, we always stock 18 months' supply, for we have to provide against accidents. That is how the estimate is made. The quantity that will probably be required not only for the year but for the next six months also is included and then the total is made.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : That has resulted in a balance of 6 lakhs and odd maunds of home salt being left unsold at the end of the year.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Fresh supplies will come only after in Vrischikam of the next year.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : So, the next year there will be another balance ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. It is I myself who order the amount to be stocked. I include the requirements of six months more, another 5 per cent being added for wastage. These calculations bring about this result. I have not got the statement just now. We generally supply 18 months' stock which is kept in the depôts.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kaikulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയുടെ ചോദ്യോത്തരങ്ങൾ കേട്ടപ്പോൾ ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കും ചിലതു സംസാരിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് ആണ്ടുതോറും ഏ ഠ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം മന്ന് ഉപ്പുവേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ പുറമെ നിന്നും മറുനാടൻ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്കു നോക്കാം. ഏ ഠ ൻന്യ-ൽ വ്യ, ര് ര്, ന്യ ര് ൻ മന്നും ഏ ഠ ൻ ഒ-ൽ ഒ, ൻ ഒ, ന് ര് മന്നും ഏ ഠ ൻ വ്യ-ൽ ഒ; ന്വ ഒ, ന് ഒ മന്നും ഏ ഠ ൻ ൻ ൽ ഒ, ഒ ന്വ, ഒ വ്യ ൻ മന്നും വീതം ഉപ്പു വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇത്രകൂട്ടലായ തുകക്കു മറുനാടൻ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നും മുമ്പ് അങ്ങിനെ വരുത്തിവന്നിരുന്നോ എന്നും ആണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടതു.

എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിലെമേധാവി ആയിതീരുന്നതിനു മുമ്പു മൂന്നു വർഷങ്ങളിലും അതിൽ പി

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

ന്നീട്ടുള്ള മൂന്നു വർഷങ്ങളിലും ആണ്ടവസാനം ചിലവു നീക്കി കിടപ്പുവ ന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പിന്റെ കണക്കുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കാം.

എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ ഭരണ കാലമായ ഫ 0ൻന-ൽ ഭ, ർ ഭ, ൻന.ന മന്നും ഫ 0ൻർ-ൽ ൈ, ർ ഡ, ൻ 0 ന മന്നും ഫ 0ൻ ഭ-ൽ ഭ, ന വ്യ, ഡ ർ ഫ മന്നും ഉപ്പ് ആ ണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ കിടപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഭരണമാ യ ഫ 0 ൻന്യ-ൽ ൻ, ർ ഫ, ൈ ഡ ഭ മന്നും ഫ 0 ൻ ൈ-ൽ ൻ, ഡ ർ, ൈ 0 ഡ മന്നും ഫ 0 ൻവ്യ-ൽ ൻ, ൈ ർ, ർ വ്യന മന്നും ഉപ്പു ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ നീക്കിയിരുപ്പുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി മ റുനാട്ടിൽ നിന്നും ഉപ്പു വരുത്തി ഇത്ര വളരെ നീക്കി ഇരിപ്പ് വയ്ക്ക ന്നതിന് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ച സംഗതിക്കും എന്താണെ ന്നുള്ളത് ഇതുവരെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അന്വേഷിച്ചറിയാൻ സാധി ച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചി രിക്കുന്നു.

തന്നാട്ട് ഉപ്പു വർദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണം ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷിക്കാക്ക് കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ ഉപ്പിനെ തൂ ക്കി ഏറവ് കൂടിവിലകൊടുത്തു് അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കാത്തതി നാലാണ്. ഫാക്ടറികളിൽ ഫ 0 ൻന്യ-ൽ ന, ർ 0, ർ 0 ന മന്ന് കിടപ്പു ണ്ടായിരുന്നത് ഫ 0 ൻ ൈ-ൽ ന, ൻ 0, വ 0 ർ മന്ന് ഉപ്പായും ഫ 0 ൻവ്യ-ൽ ന്യ, ൈ ന്യ, ൈ ഫ ന്യ മന്ന് ഉപ്പായും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിന് കാ രണമായത് വിളഞ്ഞുകിട്ടുന്ന ഉപ്പിനെ കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും അതാ തു സമയങ്ങളിൽ തൂക്കി ഏറവു കൂടിവില കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്ന എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ നയം ആണ്. ഉപ്പുകൃഷിക്കാക്ക് പലെ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങ ളും ഉണ്ടാകുകയും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി അവർ ഫ 0 ൻ ൈ-ൽ ഹർജികൾ വഴിയായും നോട്ടീസുമൂലമായും മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിനേയും ഗവർണ്മെണ്ടി നേയും അറിയിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

താമരക്കുളം ഉപ്പുകൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അപേക്ഷ അനുസരിച്ച ഫാക്ടറിക ളിൽ അവർ ശേഖരിച്ചിരുന്ന ഉപ്പിനെ തൂക്കി ഏറ്റിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഫ 0 ൻവ്യ വൃശ്ചികത്തിൽ മൂന്നു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം മന്ന് ഉപ്പു അവക്ക് നഷ്ടം വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിന് അനുണ്ടായിരുന്ന സൈക്ലോണിനെ കുറച്ചെട്ട ത്താൻ ഇടവരികയില്ലായിരുന്നു. സൈക്ലോൺ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനും എ തായൊ മുമ്പുതന്നെ മിസ്സർ സുബ്രഹ്മണ്യകരയാളർ ഫ വ്യ-ാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിൽ ഉപ്പുകൃഷിക്കാക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കഷ്ടതകളെ വേണ്ട പോലെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതായത് തൈപ്പണിയിലും പു

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രട്ടാശി പണിയിലും അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പിനെ തൂക്കി ഏറ്റിട്ടില്ലെന്നും അതിനാൽ അടുത്തുവരുന്ന തൈപണിയിൽ എടുക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പിനെ ശേഖരിച്ചിടാൻ സ്ഥലമില്ലാതെ വിഷമിയ്ക്കയാണെന്നും ഇറിടത്തെ അളങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപ്പിനെ ഉടനടൻ തൂക്കി ഏറ്റ് അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം മുനാടൻ ഉപ്പ് വരുത്തേണ്ടതായി വരികയില്ലെന്നുമായിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ മിസ്റ്റർ കരയാളർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിന് ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ മുമ്പെ വിവരിക്കുന്നമാതിരിയിൽ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു :—

You said that 10 lakhs of maunds of local salt were available at the beginning of the year, and yet an additional quantity was indented for from outside. I think you are overlooking one fact, *viz.* that all the salt stored up would not be fit for consumption as soon as it is manufactured. You know that salt must be at least nine or ten months old before it can be safely consumed."

താമരകുളം ഉപ്പു കൃഷിക്കാർ ശേഖരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പിനെ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ തൂക്കിഏറ്റംക്കാതെയും, കുടിവിലകൊടുക്കാതെയും അവരെ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തിയതിനെ പറ്റി പരാതിവന്നപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സമാധാനത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് സ്വീകരിച്ചു, അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഉപ്പു പാത്തികളിൽ നിന്നും ശേഖരിക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനു എത്രകാലത്തെ പഴക്കം വേണമെന്നുള്ളതിനു വല്ല ക്ലിപ്തവും ഉണ്ടോ എന്ന് ഫാൻവ കക്കടകത്തിൽ നടന്ന നിയമ സഭയിൽ ഞാനൊരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചതിനു അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു :—

"No definite period has been fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected. Salt is generally permitted to be issued only after it has become well dried in the drying ground. This period of dryage would vary according to the weather and the quality of the salt manufactured. Ordinarily about three months is the period required for dryage".

ഒരേ സംഗതിയെ പറ്റി രണ്ടവസരങ്ങളിൽ പരസ്പരവിരുദ്ധമായ രണ്ടു അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും ഗവർമ്മെൻറു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഓരോ അവസരങ്ങളിലും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെ സാധൂകരിക്കുന്നതിനു അനുരൂപമായ ഓരോ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൻെറ ഫലമാണെന്നു ആക്ഷേപം അനുമാനിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു ആദായവും, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൌകര്യവുമായ പ്രദേശത്തുള്ള ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ്കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിൻെറ പ്രോത്സാഹനകാര്യം ഇങ്ങനെയാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നതു.

ഇവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞതായും, മുൻകാലങ്ങളിലെ തോതുകാര്യങ്ങൾ ഒന്നൊന്നു സാമ്യമില്ലാതെയും, മുനാടൻ ഉപ്പു വരു

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ത്തി പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു നാടൻ ഉപ്പിനു ചിലവു കുറഞ്ഞുവരികയും നാടൻ ഉപ്പിന്റെ വ്യവസായത്തിനുവലുതായ ഉടവുണ്ടാകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നു മാത്രവുമല്ലാ, ആവശ്യത്തിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലായി മറുനാടൻ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തുന്നതിനാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും എത്രയോ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അന്യായമായി പുറമേ പോകുന്നു. എന്ന സംഗതിഏറ്റവും ഗൌരവയിമാട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളെപറ്റി വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിക്കുന്നതിനും, നാടൻ ഉപ്പിന്റെ വർദ്ധനക്കു വേണ്ട വഴികളെ ചിന്തിച്ചു നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിനും, ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി മറുനാടൻ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തുന്ന സംഗതിയിലുള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളിൽ വഴിപ്പെടാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും, തക്കതായ ഒരാളാണ് ആ വകുപ്പിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായിരിക്കേണ്ടതു. ഈ വാക്കുകളോടു കൂടി ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ ശിവരാമപണിക്കരുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Will the member tell me where he found the figures he quoted ? I do not find them in the *Administration Report.*

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : What figures does the member want, please ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The figure 9 lakhs and odd.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : It is from the *Administration Report.*

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Of which year ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Of several years, that is, from the year 1093 to 1098.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have not got the figures for the early years. The member has been speaking—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. This is the second time that the official member speaks.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : But new matter has been introduced and I have the right of reply.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : He can speak on it when his time for reply comes. I move that the question be now put.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Van Ross, you can speak again after Mr. Sivarama Panikkar has replied. Mr. Raman Menon has already stood to speak. The closure motion is not seconded.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, h object of the motion brought forward by Mr. Sivarama Panikkar to discuss the question as to whether it is not possible to produce

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all the salt necessary for the State. I should like to add a few words from my experience in the matter. From the statistics quoted by Mr. Kumara Pillai, it is seen that proper encouragement is *not* given to the local manufacturers of salt. In my place, that is, at Kayankulam, there were some *alloms* some years ago. They were stopped and the talk amongst the people about that is that those *alloms* were stopped merely because the Government or the authorities wanted to get more salt from outside. So there is the additional justification for the charge brought against the Government or the authorities in the matter. Hence the question is whether we cannot produce locally the salt necessary for the whole State or at least manufacture more than we do at present. I hope that the Government will pay very great attention to that subject and try if possible to revive the *alloms* at Kayankulam.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, I have got a few words to say against the motion of Mr. Sivarama Panikkar. No separate officer is required to improve the output of salt. The only ingredient that is necessary is good brine. If that is supplied and nature also helps us, we can make our pans show an improvement in the output. So, no separate officer is necessary. I will even advocate that the *alloms* in South Travancore be attached to the Nagercoil Circle and the Nagercoil Assistant Excise Commissioner be asked to supervise them. The only thing that we want is good brine from the sea as early as possible or else all the factories will be undone.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): I fully sympathise with the mover in regard to the question of producing locally the salt necessary for the State. But I do not agree with him as regards the solution offered, him, that is the separation of the Salt Department from the Excise. There are several other solutions which can be tried, for instance, by bringing in an expert and investigating the matter, or forming a committee and investigating the matter. These are only the means of solving the problem. In the representation made by Mr. Kumara Pillai, there is an insinuation. He said that the matter is entrusted to a man who has no interest in the improvement of the output of home salt. I cannot speak anything about that. Anyhow, how that separation conduces to an increase in the output of home salt is a thing which I cannot conceive. In that way, I think I will have to oppose that motion.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I am sorry that my friend Mr. N. V. Joseph did not understand me when I said how a separation of the Salt Department from the Excise can bring about the possibility of producing the salt necessary for our consumption in the State. When I meant separation, I meant a separation from the Excise Department so that the Excise Commissioner may devote his whole attention for his other work and a full-time officer may devote himself to the other department. By separation, I did not necessarily mean that a separate highly-paid officer should be employed. It seems to me that that has been the fear which caused so much opposition from the members on this side of the House. Even the Assistant Excise Commissioner who is in charge of the factories now can be

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[Mr. K. Sivarama Panikkar.]

given fuller powers and placed in immediate control. That is all that I suggested. We need not increase the pay. Everybody agrees that a staff is necessary. I also do agree on that point. Only I claim a special officer, but separate from the Excise Department, simply because we see from facts and figures that matters are not very often expedited in the Excise Department. On page 2, paragraph 7, of the Administration Report of the Excise Department, we find the following:—

"This increase synchronised with a notable fall to the extent of 2,24,423 maunds in the outturn of home salt manufactured in the local factories. This large decrease is attributed to (1) frequent rains during the two manufacturing seasons, (ii) want of enterprise on the part of the licensees and (iii) the percolation of fresh water into the salt pans on account of the existence of irrigation works in the neighbourhood. Government having observed a similar apathy on the part of the licensees in 1098, the Excise Commissioner was asked to examine whether coercive action could not be taken against them under the provisions of the Salt Regulation. His report on the point should be sent up without delay."

It shows evidently that the report of the Excise Commissioner had not been sent in till then. I do not know whether he has sent his report even by this time. Thus, matters are not expedited. Of course, I am not finding fault with the Excise Commissioner. His duties are multifarious. He has to look to land customs, abkari, ganja and opium and so on and so forth, so much so that it is not possible for any single officer to devote his attention to all these various and arduous duties. We know, as a matter of fact, that the Excise Commissioner—or for the matter of that any other man—is not a demi-god. He is only a man like any one of us and we can expect only so much from him. That is exactly the reason why he has not had time enough, as can be seen by the fact that he asked for a Manager in his office. Why should we allow him a Manager? Even if some additional expenditure is incurred in this connection, it will be amply repaid both in money and in the self-satisfaction that we produce the salt for our own consumption. We cry at the top of our voice that we should try to promote our industries and this is one of the best kinds of industry. Salt is useful from the top to the bottom of society, from the king to the poor peasant. I know no industry which is more important or more deserving to be developed in this country and I see that the defects that have now crept into the department can be overcome only if the Government are pleased to spend a small sum of Rs. 15,000 for this thing. I may ask the Excise Commissioner why he did not ask the Government to spend this money and recommend to Government that a separate full-time officer may be appointed for the Salt Department. I would say that he should have suggested to Government the ways and means to improve these things and found out the right remedy. If he had done so, these defects would have been removed long ago. For the last so many years, we readily see from the reports that the salt produced in our *alloms* is decreasing year by year so much so that at this rate in three or four years' time the whole of the salt that is being produced here would come to a standstill. So, it is on account of that fear that

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I brought forward this suggestion also. I believe it will be accepted by the members of this House and trust they will pay more attention to it and reconsider the question.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The report referred to by the member has been sent up to Government. The want of apathy was in regard to the old licensees. They wanted the modified excise system and a report on that too has already been sent to Government. What I would like to point out in regard to the member's speech is that he is building without proper foundation. He has not first of all shown us that the decrease in the output is due to want of an independent supervising officer to look after it.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it due to the negligence of the present Excise Commissioner?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No. What I am saying is that the member has not proved that the decrease in the output is due to the absence of a special officer. On the other side, I have got support for my statement that the decrease in the output is due to untimely rains and the want of proper brine.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): There was want of enterprise on the part of the licensees, and the Excise Commissioner also did not take coercive steps against them.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That is with regard to the old *attom* licensees. They were not doing the work properly and the trouble was that they were working at a loss. So, I have recommended to Government the modified excise system for the old licensees.

As regards want of enterprise, that refers only to one factory, the owner of which did not work the factory, and his license has since been cancelled. I contend that the decrease in the output is due solely to want of proper brine and to untimely rains.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know from Mr. Van Ross whether he has consulted the Director of Industries in the matter of salt industry?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The Director of Industries has not been consulted, as his opinion in this matter is not necessary.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Does not Mr. Van Ross think that the information of the Director of Industries also should be had?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It is only when we are in want of information or knowledge on any point that we have to seek for it outside.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Has the Director of Industries volunteered any information, Sir? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, he has not volunteered any information. I have got an officer in the factory who is supposed to know almost all matters relating to salt. The licensees and the *alavans* know the whole business very well.

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[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

Mr. Kumara Pillai referred to some figures and, as usual, he made some insinuations about me. I do not know where those figures were obtained from. I have the figures for 1097, 1098 and 1099. The figures show that the balance in regard to factories, depôts and bankshalls at the beginning of 1097 was 3,92,180 maunds.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Page, please.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Appendix 17, page 84 of the report for 1098.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Let me refer him to page 19.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Of what?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Of the excise Commissioner's annual report.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Of what year.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): 1093.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissinoer*): I am speaking of the 1093 report. Unfortunately, I have not got the 1093 report. The stock at the beginning of 1097 was 3,92,180 and of 1098, 5,01,000 maunds. Mr. Kumara Pillai has made certain statements regarding the accumulation of salt in the factories and said that the licensees were applying to me for the acceptance of the salt. I do not accept any of those statements as correct. In the first place, it is not quite relevant. Secondly, the facts are not correctly stated. It has been the practice for Government to accept the salt of the licensees only at the time of transport to the depôts. That will be in the month of Vrischikam of every year. One or two licensees who were in want of money pressed me to accept their salt earlier, that is in Medam. I said it was against the practice and I could not do it. They made a fuss about it and that is what Mr. Kumara Pillai is referring to as maladministration.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): In 1098 the balance of salt at the beginning of the year was 8,76,824 maunds. This is stated on page 24, first column.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Cmmissioner*): There are three statements. Which statement is the member referring to?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The middle statement.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The total stock is, 8,76,824 maunds. I thought you meant only the home salt.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): No, Sir. I was referring to the whole stock. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു ഇവിടത്തെവിലവിന്റെ പത്തുലക്ഷത്തോളമേ ആവശ്യമുള്ളുവെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ൫൰പത്തുലക്ഷം നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടെന്നുമാണു.

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So I request the President to ask Mr. Van Ross to withdraw his statement regarding me.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): What statement?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The statement that I was making an incorrect statement.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I thought the member was speaking in regard to home salt only.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): No.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is already 2 o'clock. Can we not rise now?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Has not the official member exceeded the time limit?

PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Van Ross. Before we rise, we will see whether the member wishes to press his motion?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Sir, I told the House at the beginning that my idea was only—

PRESIDENT: You cannot make a speech. You may just say whether you press it to the vote of the House or not.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Though I am not very much convinced by the explanation offered by the Excise Commissioner, I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-59 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-47 P. M.

Motion 45.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

45. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,02,870 for Salt by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in moving this motion is only to elicit information about and draw the attention of Government to examine the items that make up the recoveries on account of transport charges under salt. I find, from the budget for 1100, that about Rs. 2,30,000 is budgetted under this item. Last year, also the estimate was about that figure. It will appear from the budget that the total expenses incurred by Government last year on account of the salt business, both under Salt factories and Salt depôts, is only about Rs. 1,06,000, whereas, the recoveries on account of sale amount to Rs. 2,30,000 and this goes towards the inflating the sale price of salt. It is therefore very important in the interests of the consumer that this item is closely scrutinised to see that the Commissioner brings down, to the lowest possible limit, the actual charges incurred by way of establishment or wastage or other items under this head. It is only with a view to draw the attention of Government and ask them to investigate this particular matter that I have tabled this motion. If I can get an assurance that it will be enquired into, I have no objection to withdraw my motion.

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I think there is no objection at all for Government to look into the items referred to by the member to see whether they are reasonable or not.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 46.

The following motion was not made as the member was absent.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI:—

46. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,768 under establishment by Rs. 100.

Motion 47.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

47. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,768 under establishment by Rs. 480.

I proposed similar reductions in other offices. But owing to the exigencies of time and other reasons, I did not press those motions. I move this motion because in this case there are special reasons which make me do so. I have already dealt with the necessity for a detailed examination and retrenchment of the expenditure on establishments. We cannot hope for big cuts being made but only small mercies in the shape of small cuts. Here I find that there are 32 clerks, including 3 typists. I am thankful to the Excise Commissioner for having shown the clerks separately. There is now an Assistant Commissioner in his office to help him. There is another gentleman, a Manager, to be added in the next year, as there is a provision in the next year's budget. We cannot say anything about those posts as they carry a salary of not less than Rs. 125. So, as a set-off at least against that increment, I hope the Excise Commissioner will agree to reduce one clerk on Rs. 40 as there are 32 clerks in his office. In similar Departments, for example, in the Land Revenue Commissioner's Office, there are only 20 clerks as stated yesterday. For these reasons, I move that this cut be made.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, Mr. Raman Menon desires that the staff in my office should be reduced by one clerk on Rs. 40. There are 29 clerks and 3 typists. The work in my offfce is very heavy and the present staff is barely sufficient to cope with the work. This question was thoroughly gone into at the reorganisation of 1098 and it was found that no reduction could be made without seriously affecting the work in the office. The present number of clerks was fixed in 1089, *i. e.*, 11 years ago. Since that time, the volume of work has considerably increased owing to the development of the revenue, the extension of the independent shop system &c.; and though there has been great increase of work in connection with the Council and

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the collection and tabulation of statistics, no addition has been made to the staff. Sir, the member mentioned the staff in the Revenue Commissioner's office was only 20 clerks. I admit that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether it is inclusive of the Income Tax Section also?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Exclusive of that section. The Land Revenue Commissioner has the advantage of having four Divisional Officers who also form the directorate. If you take their clerks also —

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): There are Assistant Excise Commissioners.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They are not directing. The direction is entirely with me. If you take their figures, you have got five managers and 113 clerks. I am managing my office with 29 clerks and 3 typists. If the member wants details as to the work which is being turned out in my office by each of the twenty-nine clerks, I am prepared to give them; but it will weary the House.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It is not necessary to give us details. I hope 31 clerks will do.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry I cannot reduce the number of clerks. But there is a proposal to make a reduction and it is before Government. The proposal is to reduce one hand on Rs. 40 *i. e.*, the scale maistry, whom I find I can do without as a full-time man. Except that, I cannot make any reduction.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I wish that this motion may be put to vote, as I find further that there are some Petty Officers also in his office.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They are not doing clerical work and they belong to the reserve.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I find there are 13 others including some Petty officers.

PRESIDENT: The Excise Commissioner says that they belong to the reserve and that they do not do clerical work.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I request that this motion may be voted upon.

PRESIDENT: Do you wish to have the motion voted upon on the assumption that there are some Petty officers doing duty as clerks in his office?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As the reduction of one clerk is under consideration of Government, I will withdraw the motion.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not propose to reduce a clerk.

PRESIDENT: It is the scale-maistry and not a clerk that the Excise Commissioner proposes to dispense with.

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 48.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

48. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowance of officers by Rs. 500.

സഞ്ചാരപ്പടിക്കു വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപയിൽ നിന്നു ൫൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ പ്രമേയം. ൧൦൯൯-ൽ ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ൧,൬൧൬ രൂപാ മാത്രമെ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതിനാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ കൂടുതൽ തുക കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, it is true, as the member stated, that in 1099 the expenditure under this head was only Rs. 1,616. Various circumstances affect the circuit work of the Head of the Department; and the number of days spent by him on circuit in one year may not be the same as in another year. In one year there may be many matters requiring his constant presence at the headquarters and the circuit work is therefore necessarily less than it would have been otherwise. Again, in some years the officer's presence may be suddenly required in distant places at times and long journeys will be found necessary. In that case, the expenditure on account of travelling allowance will increase. In 1101, I will have to go to Devicolam and afterwards to conduct the auction sale of arrack and toddy shops and my circuit work is likely to be more than what it was during this year. In 1097, I spent Rs. 2,082 under travelling allowance and in 1098 it was Rs. 1,840. Perhaps I may be able to accept a cut in the Budget for the year after the next. For these reasons, I expect the whole of Rs. 2,000 under travelling allowance is necessary.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): In view of the assurance of Mr. Van Ross, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 49.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavnakod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion.—

49. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,433 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

ഫോറസ്റ്റു മുതൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസിൽ മാനേജരെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനെ വീണ്ടും നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജറിൽ

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കാണുന്ന തുക വീണ്ടും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ നീല കണ്ഠപ്പിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. അതിനുള്ള പ്രധാനകാരണം Devolution of powers നെപറ്റി വേണ്ടപോലെ പഠിച്ചാലോചിച്ചു റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരാഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകിട്ടി, അതിന്മേലുള്ള ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ തീരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുവരെ നൂതനമായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസൃഷ്ടികളും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണു്. Devolution Officer രുടെ പരിശോധനകളിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസ് ജോലികളെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചു എന്നു വരാം. അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു മാനേജരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അപ്പോൾ പാലെ വിഷമങ്ങൾക്കും കാരണമായിതീരുന്നതാണു്.

രണ്ടാമതായി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്, ഫാൻവ്വലെ ബഡ്ജറിനെപറ്റി നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ മാനേജരുടെ ആവശ്യമില്ലായ്മയെ വേണ്ടപോലെ തെളിയിക്കയും കൌൺസിലിൽ നിന്നും ആ ഉദ്യോഗം വേണ്ടെന്നു വയ്ക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ആ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ വീണ്ടും സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്നതിനു മുട്ടുതലായകാരണങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും തന്നെ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഫാൻവ്വലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ മാനേജരെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻപാടില്ലെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കാരണങ്ങളെ പരിശോധിക്കാം.

രാജ്യം മുഴുവൻ അധികാരാർത്തിയുള്ളതായ ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു മിക്കവാറും സമയങ്ങളിൽ സക്കീട്ടു സഞ്ചരിക്കേണ്ടതായിവരുമെന്നും അതിനാൽ എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകാം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു ആഫീസിൽ ഒരു മാനേജർ ആവശ്യമാണെന്നുമാണു്. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ സക്കീട്ടും അതിൽ നടത്തിപോരുന്ന പരിശോധനകളും അതിനാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ഗുണങ്ങളും കഴിഞ്ഞ നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദിച്ച ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളിൽ നിന്നു വ്യക്തമാകുന്നതാണു.

മറൊരുകാരണം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു വലിയ ആഫീസുകളിൽ ഒരു സൂപ്രണ്ടോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു മാനേജരൊ വേണമെന്നാണു്. അതിലേയ്ക്കു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ആഫീസിൽ സൂപ്രണ്ടിനെക്കാൾ എത്രയോ ക്രടിയതരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരെ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. മൈസൂർ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരാഫീസിൽ ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഒരു മാനേജരെ ക്രടി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Goverment*) : Does the member know what the annual excise revenue in Mysore State is ?

PRESIDENT : Does the member know the strength of the department in Mysore ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*); അറിയാൻപടില്ല. ഡെവല്യൂഷൺ ആഫിസരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് വന്നതിനുശേഷമെ കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കാവൂ.

എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫിസിൽ എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നും എല്ലാ ഫയലുകളും അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു പരിശോധിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നും അതിനാൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ഒരാൾ അതിനെ പരിശോധിച്ച് അതിൽ അടയാളം വയ്ക്കാൻ ഒരു മാനേജർവേണമെന്നുമാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസിലുള്ള എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം എക്സൈസ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മിഷണന്മാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ അധികാരങ്ങളെ അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കാതെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ തന്നെ അപഹരിച്ചുവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് കൊണ്ടാണ്. അധികാരശക്തി നടത്താനുള്ള ഭ്രമം കുറയുകയും ന്യായമായ അധികാരങ്ങളെ ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാനുള്ള മനസ്ഥിതി വരികയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ആഫീസിലെ ജോലികൾ മാനേജരെ ക്രൂടാതെ നടത്തത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

വേറെ ഒരു കാരണം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ അനേകം താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇൻഡിപെൻറൻറ്ഷാപ്പുസിസ്റ്റം ഏർപ്പെടുത്താത്തതു കൊണ്ടു അതു സംബന്ധമായ ജോലികൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറെ ആഫീസിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലായുണ്ടെന്നാണ്. വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇൻഡിപ്പെൻറൻറ്ഷാപ്പുസിസ്റ്റം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു അതു സംബന്ധമായുണ്ടെന്നു അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികൾക്കു വളരെ കുറവു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുമാനേജരെ വീണ്ടും കൊടുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല.

അടുത്തതായിഎനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ള ചില ഭരണനടപടികളെ പറ്റിയാണ്. എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിലെവരവു ൧൦൦൯-ൽ ൪൯,൯൪,൫൦൦ രൂപായായിരുന്നതു ൧൯൨൦-ാമാണ്ടിൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൪൪,൫൬,൫൦൦ രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു ൧൦൦൯-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൯൨൦-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൫,൩൩,൪൦൦ രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കുറവു ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ ലഹരി

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സാധനങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു വരുന്നതിലുള്ള കുറവായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അതു ഏറ്റവും സന്തോഷിക്കത്തക്ക കാര്യംതന്നെയാണ്. പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും വാസ്തവം അങ്ങനെയല്ലെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആക്ഷേപമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

അതു പോലെതന്നെ കസ്റ്റംസ് വരവിൽ ൧൯൨൩-ൽ ൨൯,൭൯,൭൭൫ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു് ൧൯൨൪-ൽ ൨൪,൯൪,൦൦൦ രൂപയായിക്കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു ൧൯൨൩-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൯൨൪-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ൫,൭൭,൭൭൫ രൂപകുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഇങ്ങനെ എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിലും കസ്റ്റംസ് വരവിലും കുറവുവരുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രധാന കാരണം എക്സൈസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണ കാര്യക്ഷമത കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതിനാലും ൧൯൨൫ തുലാം ൧-ാന്നു-മുതൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരത്തിൻറെ ഫലമായിട്ടുമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഈ പരിഷ്കാരം എന്തെല്ലാം ദോഷങ്ങളെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ആദ്യമായി പരിശോധിക്കാം. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വിജയകരമായഭരണം നില്ക്കുന്നതു് ശ്രേഷ്ഠമായ പ്രിവൻറീവുജോലികളിലും നിയമവിരോധമായകളവുകളെ ശ്രദ്ധാന്തിയോടുകൂടി കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിലുമാണെന്നു് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ൧൯൨൫-ൽ നടത്തിയ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിൻറെ ഫലമായി മേൽ പരിശോധകന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിയ്ക്കയും പ്രിവൻറീവ് ജോലിക്കാർക്കുള്ളവരുടെ സംഖ്യയെകുറയ്ക്കയുമാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. മുമ്പു് ൪ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണന്മാരും ൫ സൂപ്രണ്ടുമാരും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനെ ൭ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണർമാരാക്കി തീർത്തു; ൪൯ റേഞ്ചുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനെ ൩൫ ആയി കുറയ്ക്കയും, ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ൩൫-ൽ നിന്നും ൪൩ ആയികുറയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. പെറിആഫീസറന്മാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ൩൦൩-ൽ നിന്നും ൫൪൩ ആക്കിതീർത്തു. ശിപായിമാരുടെ സംഖ്യ ൭,൩൪൦-ൽ നിന്നും ൭,൫൪൭ ആയികുറച്ചു. ഇങ്ങനെ ൭൩ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ, ൪൦ പെറിആഫീസറന്മാർ, ൭൭൩ ശിപായിമാർ ഇത്രയും ആളുകളെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പരിഹാരമായും എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിലെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമാണുള്ളു, സങ്കല്പത്തോടുകൂടിയും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടേയും പെറിആഫീസറന്മാരുടേയും മദ്ധ്യേ സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ പുതുതായി സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു അതിലേക്കു ൩൭ പേരെ നിയമിക്കാനിടയുമായി.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഈ പരിഷ്കാരപ്രകാരം അസിസ്റ്റൻറ കമ്മിഷണക്കും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടക്കും തമ്മിൽ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ൪൦ രൂപായുടെ വ്യത്യാസമേയുള്ളു. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടക്കും സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടക്കും തമ്മിൽ ൧൫ രൂപായും, സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടക്കും പെററിആഫീസക്കും തമ്മിൽ ൬ രൂപായും, പെററിആഫീസക്കും ശിപായിക്കും തമ്മിൽ ൨ രൂപയും, മാത്രമേ ശമ്പളങ്ങളിൽ വ്യത്യാസമുള്ളു. മേലധികാരികൾ അവരുടെ കീഴ് ജീവനക്കാരെക്കൊണ്ടു വരുതിക്കേൾപ്പിക്കുന്നതും അവരെ കൊണ്ടുജോലി ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതും എങ്ങനെയാണെന്നും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കായ്ക്ഷമത എങ്ങനെയിരിക്കുമെന്നും വ്യാഖ്യാനിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പുവർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്നതോടും റേഞ്ചുകളുടെ വിസ്താരത്തെ കുറച്ചു കൂടുതൽ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതിനുപകരം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുയും റേഞ്ചുകളുടെ വിസ്താരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും അതോടുകൂടി സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കയും ചെയ്തതാണ് ൧൦൯൭-ലെ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിനു വലുതായ പരാജയത്തെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുള്ളത്. സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടെ സൃഷ്ടിയിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ നിയമനാധികാരത്തിൽ കുറെ ആളുകളെ കൂടുതലായികിട്ടി എന്നല്ലാതെ അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുവേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുകയൊ കായ്ക്ഷമതയുണ്ടാകുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. റേഞ്ചിലുള്ള ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടേയും സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടന്മാരുടേയും യോജിപ്പില്ലായ്മയുടെ ഫലമാണ് രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഓരോ ദിവസവും കളവായുള്ള വാറ്റു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. ഈ സംഗതി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ അധികൃതന്മാക്ക് അറിയാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കാണ് കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യമുള്ളത്. ഇതാണ് എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിലെ വരവുകുറഞ്ഞുവരാൻ ഇടയാക്കീട്ടുള്ളത്. അല്ലാതെ മദ്യപാനനിരോധന സംഘക്കാരുടെ ശ്രമത്താലൊ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കൂടി കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നതിനാലൊ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പണമില്ലാത്തതിനാലൊ അല്ല.

ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ കായ്ക്ഷമത കുറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നതിനും അഴിമതികൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്നതിനും എത്രയൊ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഈ കൌൺസിലിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്.

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ച. അതുക്കുറഞ്ഞി സക്കിളിൽ രണ്ടായിരത്തോളം ചെത്തുകാർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നും അവരോട് അവിടത്തെ എക്സൈസ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ മാസംതോറും ഒന്നര രൂപാ വീതം കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നു എന്നും എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകളാൽ തെളിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി അനേക ചോദ്യങ്ങളാലും മറ്റുപലെ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളാലും കൌൺസിലിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിന് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ യാതൊരു സമാധാനവും പറയാതെ കഴിച്ചു കൂട്ടുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഛ. ഫറൻസിലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള നിരൂപണകാലത്തു മുനമ്പം മുതലായ ഉപ്പു പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽ ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിൽ അവിടത്തെ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മീഷണരും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരും കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതായി ഉറന്ന കൌണ്സിലിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ഖാദർ പ്പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിന് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ കുറെക്കാരെ മറച്ചു നിത്തി രക്ഷിക്കാൻ നോക്കിയതല്ലാതെ സംഗതിയുടെ വാസ്തവത്തെ അറിയുന്നതിനൊ അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനൊ ശ്രമിക്കാതിരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ വീണ്ടും അന്വേഷണം നടത്താമെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് പറഞ്ഞു എങ്കിലും അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാതെ മൌനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തുപോരുന്നതു.

ജ. കള്ളു ചെത്തുന്നതിന് വൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ നമ്പരടിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അപേക്ഷകളയച്ചു വന്ന ദിവസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പും ലൈസൻസ് കൊടുത്തു മൂന്നാഴ്ചയ്ക്കകവും ആ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ നമ്പരടിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ നിയമം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ ഫറൻസ്, ഫറൻസ് ഈ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ ചിങ്ങം, കന്നി, തുലാം ഈ മാസങ്ങളിൽ അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അപേക്ഷകളും, ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും തുലാമാസാവസാനം വരെ റൂൾസിൻ പ്രകാരം നമ്പരടിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാത്ത വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ കണക്കുകളും നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഫറൻസ്-ൽ ൩,൫൫൫-ം ഫറൻസ്-ൽ ൫,൦൦൦-ം വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ നമ്പരടിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. നിയമകാലങ്ങൾക്കകം വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾക്കു നമ്പർ അടിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാത്തപക്ഷം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് വലുതായ നഷ്ടംവരുന്നതാണ്. അതിനുംപുറമെ എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ചെത്തുകാരോടു കൈക്കൂലിവാങ്ങാൻ ഏറ്റവും സൌകര്യമുള്ള ഒരു വഴിയായി തീരുന്നതുമാണ്.

ര. ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഭരണം തുടങ്ങിയതിൽ പിന്നെ ഇവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു എത്രയൊ കൂടുതലായി മദ്യം

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ൻ ഉപ്പു വരുത്തുന്നതിൽ പ്രത്യേകം താല്പര്യം കാണിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പല വിധമായ വ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങൾക്കും കാരണമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ചുവടെ വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ടു ആ സംഗതി വ്യക്തമാകുന്നതാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻ പിള്ളയുടെ ഭരണകാലമായ ക ഠ ൻന-ൽ ഒ, ർ ഒ, ൻന മന്നം ക ഠ ൻ ർ-ൽ ൈ, ർ ഫ, ൻ ഠ ന മന്നം ക ഠ ൻ ഒ-ൽ ഒ, ന്വ, ഫ ർ ക മന്നം ഉപ്പു് ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ കിടപ്പു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു.

ഇന്നത്തെ കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഭരണം തുടങ്ങിയതായ ക ഠ ൻന്യ-ൽ ൻ, ർ ക, ൈ ഫ ന്യ മന്നം ക ഠ ൻ ൈ-ൽ ൻ, ഫ ർ, ൈ ഠ ക മന്നം ക ഠ ൻ വ-ൽ ൻ, ൈ ർ, ർ വ ന മന്നം ഉപ്പു ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ കിടപ്പു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരാണ്ടത്തേക്കു ക ഠ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം മന്നു ഉപ്പുവേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ക ഠ ലക്ഷത്തോളം മന്നു് ഉപ്പു ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുവയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

൪. ഈ ഭരണനയത്തോടു കൂടി ഇവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിക്കാർ ശേഖരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പിനെ സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ തൂക്കി എടുക്കാതെയും ഉപ്പു കൃഷിക്കാക്കു സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ കടിവില കൊടുക്കാതെയും അവക്കു കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും അതിനാൽ തന്നാടു ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായത്തെ തടയുകയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു.

൫. രൂപസിനു വിരോധമായി വ്യാജചാരായം കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും ലൈസൻസില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വച്ചു വിൽക്കുന്നതിനു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ അധികൃതന്മാർ സഹായമായി നിൽക്കുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ മിസ്റ്റർ താംസണോടു സമാധാനം ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും എക്സൈസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമയ്യങ്കാരുടെ മേൽ കുറ്റം ആരോപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ഇതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളാണ്.

൬. ചാവുക്കുസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നടന്നു വരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെ ന്യായമായ വിധം തടയാതിരിക്കയും അവക്കു ന്യായമായി ശിക്ഷകൾ കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അരുക്കുറ്റിവഴി തീരുവ തീർക്കാതെവെളിച്ചണ്ണകൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ളകേസും അതിന്റെ നടപടികളും തീരുമാനവും ഇതിലേക്കു ഉത്തമദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായിനിൽക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up. But I can allow a minute or two.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*) : I think, Sir, if I continue, it would take some more time.. I would therefore stop.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Sir, I have tabled an identical motion.

PRESIDENT : I am afraid I will have to ask you not to proceed with that motion as it is substantially identical with that of Mr. Kumara Pillai. I can permit only Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion and not yours.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I am just speaking on Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

PRESIDENT : I said I can allow only Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion, so that you could say now all that you want.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I am very glad to support the motion brought forward by Mr. Kumara Pillai. I support the motion because I want to show my entire disapproval of the insidious policy of the Excise Department—

PRESIDENT : You cannot assume that there is any such thing as an insidious policy and proceed on that assumption.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) :—in bringing back to life the post of Managership in the Excise Commissioner's Office, upon which the sentence of death has already been executed. There is, therefore, no necessity for reviving that post in the Excise Commissioner's Office. Moreover, I think, it is an insult to the self-respect of the members of this House. The question, whether a Manager should be given to the Excise Commissioner or not, was thoroughly discussed, and the late administration came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for the post and that it was a costly surplusage. Now, the Commissioner has come forward with his proposal to have a Manager to add to the already swollen list of his office staff. Most probably, the Commissioner was encouraged by the fact that there is a change in the personnel of the administration and in the personnel of this House. But, I fear the Commissioner has reckoned without his host.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): Is the member aware that the post of manager was then held in abeyance experimentally for one year ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I am aware of the fact. Anyhow, the Salaries Committee, after going through the whole question, decided that there was no necessity for giving a Manager to the Excise Commissioner. For about twenty years, the members of the Popular Assembly also were urging the necessity for making an enquiry into the top-heaviness of the public service in the State. That is another ground upon which also I want to support this motion. The top-heaviness of this particular department has been engaging the attention of the Council from year to year, and the question of the Manager in the Excise Commissioner's Office has also been debated upon. Above all these things, there is the Excise Committee's report before the Government. All the non-official members of the Excise Committee have

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

reported that there should be a separation of Salt from Excise and Customs. If that report is going to be given effect to, then, of course, the Excise Commissioner will not stand in need of a Manager for his office.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I just correct my friend, having been a member of the Excise Committee myself? It is not the separation of the Salt from the Excise and Customs Departments that we have suggested. Our proposal was that the the work of collecting the revenue should be transferred from the Excise Department to the Land Revenue Department.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Even in that case it will considerably reduce the work of the Excise Commissioner. Therefore, there is no necessity for the post of a Manager in the Excise Commissioner's Office. We have been giving expression to the popular view that there is considerable scope for retrenchment under establishment charges. These questions are being brought to the notice of the House every year and the question of retrenchment has been mooted by Messrs. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, Kumara Pillai, Kunjitomman and several other members of this House. Therefore, this question as to whether we should appoint any high-paid officer in any department of the State, should be given a final decision. That is the reason why I support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

PRESIDENT: I did not quite follow your last statement.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*). We are opposed to the creation of any high-paid officer in any department of the State. This question is being raised in the Legislative Council every year and, unless we come to an understanding, that there need not be any creation of any new high-paid officer in the State, I think this question is likely to be raised in this Council hereafter and much time wasted upon it.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I know, what the member means by 'high pay'?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I mean by 'high pay' the pay which cannot be voted by the non-official members of this House.

PRESIDENT: You mean the pay that is outside the scope of discussion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): While bringing all these points to the notice of the House, I support the motion.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I had sent up an identical motion and, without introducing my motion itself, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Some two years ago, if I remember correct, this question cropped up in the Council and a compromise was effected. The matter cropped up in the nature of a question as to who should remain in the office of the Excise Commissioner, the Assistant Excise Commissioner

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or the Manager. It was found that it was not necessary to have *both* the Assistant Commissioner and the Manager in the office of the Excise Commissioner. The Excise Commissioner withdrew his proposal, as it were, for the time being. In my budget speech, I referred to this point in particular and said that the increase of officers necessitates further increase. This is one of the examples. Our goal is to reduce the number of officers as far as possible. We have been complaining for a very long time that in a small State like this we have too many officers. Now there is a proposal for creating another fresh appointment. I do not think it can be justified on any account. It may be that the Excise Commissioner has very many duties to attend to and that his work is very heavy in the office. I am prepared to admit that. I think many letters are lying in his office unanswered. We can all see that. But when I suggested this morning the separation of the Salt Department from the Excise and Customs, the Excise Commissioner did not seem to approve of that idea very much. He wants everything for himself. He is not willing to part with any portion of his business. At the same time, he says that he has very heavy work. He wants more men. I showed him very clearly this morning that the separation could be effected without much expenditure and that it will be for the safety of the production of salt in the country and in the interests of the public also. If that separation is effected, surely the Excise Commissioner will have no chance of asking for a Manager. In this connection, I would like to point out one clear inconsistency in the speech made by Mr. Van Ross in this Council some two years ago. He says, on page 364 of Vol. I:—

"The office work in regard to Abkari matters is growing with the introduction of the independent shop system from one end of the State to the other. Before the introduction of the independent shop system, a taluk had generally only three contractors—one for toddy, one for arrack and one for opium and ganja."

Then, on page 371 and probably in the same speech he says—

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I may save the member's time and the trouble in reading it. I admit the inconsistency. It is due to a misprint and I have drawn the attention of Government to that fact in my letter to Government. In those days, preliminary editions were not issued and I had no opportunity to find out the mistake.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Then I do not want to read further. Since he admits the inconsistency, I do not wish to press the matter further. With these words, I support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what further time we have for this demand?

PRESIDENT: You can go up to 3-40.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I think I would require a few more minutes than are allowed to me, because (*louder, please*) I have to meet all the points raised by Mr. Kumara Pillai and others.

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PRESIDENT : You should stick to your time.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : In the first place, I want to say that I am not asking for the creation of a new appointment. The question of having a Manager for my office was fully discussed in the budget meeting of the year 1097. On that occasion, my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, on the other side, asked me whether I could not make a trial without a Manager, instead of immediately opposing the proposal. In deference to the wishes of the House, I accepted the suggestion and I have given the proposal a very fair trial for three years. It cannot be said that I have not given it a fair trial.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether there is any deadlock in the Excise Commissioner's Office on account of the want of a Manager?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The very fact that I am here standing up before you is proof of that fact. I should not have come to-day with the proposal—knowing all the difficulties I will have to encounter in getting the grant—if there was no real need for the place.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Is there no other way of solving the difficulty?

MR. A. J VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have given the proposal a very fair trial and I now find that it is not possible to get on without a Manager. If any proof is needed other than the reasons I have given in my speech of 1097, it lies in the fact that I stand before the House to-day with this demand. Members on this side of the House know how zealously members on the other side—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is there any substantial increase in correspondence in his office?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, there has been a very substantial increase.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*)) : I should like to have some figures.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : It comes to about 42,000 letters per year, which, when reduced to a day's work, comes to about 160 letters.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : There are only 400 letters more than the number of letters in the previous year, and for this he wants a Manager.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The member is not quite correct when he says that there is an increase only of 400 letters. When we look into the volume of correspondence in the several years in the past, it is found that there is a very large increase in the number of letters in my office.

Members on this side of the House know with what zealous care this House watches over the expenditure of public money, especially under salaries. Knowing all these difficulties, I am standing before you to-day asking for a Manager for my office. I think that that one fact will absolve me from the necessity of traversing the whole ground which

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was traversed in 1097. One instance of the heavy nature of the work in my office can be given. The number of letters received in and despatched from my office in a year is about 42,000. Taking 268 as the number of working days in a year, the daily receipts and despatches come to about 168. That this volume of work is too much, for one assistant, goes without saying. He can only do it at the sacrifice either of his health or of good work. It is possible for me to recite all the various works that are being turned out in my office. But I do not think such a recital would make any impression on the House, unless there are members who have actually worked in my office.

Mr. Kumara Pillai said that this accumulation of work is due to my own fault, namely, of not decentralising the work. I can tell you that certainly it is not an insatiable appetite for more work that has brought about this accumulation of work in my office. There are very good reasons. It is due to the impracticability of delegating important powers to officers of the pay and status of the present Assistant Excise Commissioners.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the highest pay that is now paid to an Assistant Excise Commissioner?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There is one Assistant Commissioner getting a pay of Rs. 325 to Rs. 400. He is the Senior Assistant Excise Commissioner. Of the rest, a majority of them get Rs. 175 to Rs. 225.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Are not the old Circle Officers now being treated as Assistant Commissioners?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The pay of these officers, especially in the last two grades, is insufficient, in my opinion, to justify the delegation to them of important powers involving large revenues. It would be unfair both to them and to the department, if this is done. The same difficulty was experienced by Mr. Raman Pillai when he took charge of the department in 1083. At that time, there were four Division Officers and under them Circle Officers in charge of sub-divisions. The pay of these Division Officers being small, namely Rs. 200 to Rs. 300, Mr. Raman Pillai could not delegate large powers to them, with the result that they served merely as transmitting officers.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): May I know what was the pay of Mr. Raman Pillai then?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Rs. 500 to Rs. 700.

Mr. Raman Pillai could not delegate large powers to them, with the result that they served merely as transmitting officers, and effective control over the field work was impossible. Orders had to percolate down through two officers before they reached the field. Similarly, information and reports from the field were delayed greatly in the process of reaching the head office. This prevented prompt and effective administrative control. Mr. Raman Pillai had, therefore, the top-layer of Division Officers abolished. Now, Mr. Raman Pillai is very well-known throughout Travancore as a shrewd and capable officer who knows his

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[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

business. Hence, the delegation of powers to the present Assistant Excise Commissioners, which would appreciably decrease the work in my office, is out of the question. The only way in which decentralisation can be effected is by re-organising the department and appointing Deputy Commissioners approaching the status of Dewan Peishkars But I am against any such re-organisation at present. The nature of the work of my department demands that, for some time more, the reins should be held firmly in the hands of the Head of the Department and that orders affecting the revenue should reach the field with the least possible delay.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there are any Assistant Excise Commissioners corresponding, in status, to the Division Assistants of the Revenue department?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, there is one man who is the Senior Assistant Commissioner.

Several of the taluks, north of Quilon, where the independent shop system has been introduced only in recent years, have not settled down to regular and smooth working. They may be regarded as unsettled taluks and they require the prompt and compelling hand of the Excise Commissioner, if the excise policy should be enforced and Government revenue should be safeguarded. Mr. Raman Pillai recognised this need; and hence he adhered to the reorganisation he effected when he took charge, till his retirement, and the system justified itself.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up; but I shall allow you three or four minutes merely for the reason that some discreditable remarks were made by one member about the administration of the department. Other members spoke with moderation, but the member, whose name I am not mentioning, said that you attempted to sneak in a proposal through the Council, taking advantage of the new administration and the new Council. I regard that as a most discreditable statement and you are entitled to justify yourself. I give you an extension of time for three minutes.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): From Rs. 47 lakhs in 1083, the revenue rose to Rs. 73 lakhs in 1095 when I took charge of the department. There has thus been a steady and substantial growth in the revenue. From 1095 to 1100 the revenue has continued to grow and it is to-day over Rs. 90 lakhs. The system may therefore be regarded as having more than justified itself. I do not see the advantage of tampering with the system which, as shown above, has been found to be sound and suitable for the development of the revenue of this department. The only way to decentralise work in my office would be to change the present system and re-introduce the Division Officers. In the interests of Government revenue, I am not for effecting this change now. Anyhow, I have made an estimate of the cost of re-introducing the Division Officers in order to see what the additional expenditure would amount to. I have made the estimate at the lowest rates of pay possible and I find that it will come to over Rs. 7,000.

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Instead of this large annual recurring expenditure, I am asking only for an increase of Rs. 1,370 which represents the cost of the Manager. With this amount, I shall be able to tackle my work in the office fairly satisfactorily and go on with the system that has been tried for several years and proved successful.

It has been urged further that an officer has been appointed to consider the question of the devolution of powers and that it would be desirable that the question of the appointment of a Manager be deferred till that officer's recommendations are received and considered. I have thought of this. That officer has not been authorised to recommend any re-organisation of the department. He can only suggest the delegation of powers to the different grades of officers as at present constituted. As I have just pointed out, no large devolution of powers is possible to the Assistant Excise Commissioners with their present pay and status, so that the Devolution Officer's recommendations cannot materially lighten the work in my office. Nothing therefore can be gained by waiting for that officer's recommendations.

With regard to Mr. Nilakanta Pillai's remarks that I took advantage of the new Council to bring in this proposal, I think it is not fair to me because I have been complaining year after year that the Manager's post is absolutely necessary. It is only after I gave a fair trial that I made up my mind to bring this proposal. Although there are new members, there are also old members in the Council who know the matter well.

Mr. Kumara Pillai mentioned the Arukutty oil case and some other matters. I can tell him that the facts of the Arukutty oil case would bear very close examination and he will find that there has been not the least irregularity about that case. I may assure him that I am prepared to go through the whole matter with him in order to satisfy him. With regard to smuggling, in every department there is smuggling, and that is why a preventive staff is appointed by the various departments.

PRESIDENT : Time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : What about the report of the Excise Committee?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The Committee has not recommended the transfer of collection work to the Revenue Department.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : What about the unanimous report of the elected non-official members of the Committee?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The Committee as a whole has not recommended it. The minority was in favour of that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : In case the recommendations are going to be accepted, would there not be a reduction of work pertaining to the excise commissioner's office?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I cannot say now. It will depend upon the arrangements made then.

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MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I rise to oppose the motion. The Excise Department of the State is the most important department in the matter of revenue. The Excise Commissioner has been stating that his department is responsible for the collection of about Rs. 90 lakhs. He has under him, if I am right, 10 Divisions. There has been a comparison of the office of the Excise Commissioner with the office of the Commissioner for Land Revenue and Income Tax. To my mind, there is a fundamental difference. The Revenue Commissioner has under him directly only 4 subordinate officers who have very large powers in matters in which the Revenue Department is engaged, while the Excise Commisssoner has under him more than double the number of direct subordinate officers. It is therefore only natural that there would be much more correspondence between the Excise Commissioner and his subordinates than between the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner and his direct subordinates. We have had an idea of the volume of work turned out in his office from the figures supplied by Mr. Van Ross. The Managership in the Excise Commissioner's office, as pointed out by Mr. Van Ross, is not a new appointment for which he is fighting. It was already in existence. But, in the year 1097, when discussing the demands for grants, this House objected to the retention of the Manager. On the suggestion made by one of the members of this House, the Excise Commissioner promised to make a trial to carry on the work of his office without the officer in question. The Head of the Excise Department now comes forward before this House and says that he made a trial and has found that it is not possible for him to get on without a Manager. I do not see any reason why that statement should be either discredited or should not be given value to. After all, it is to the interests of the State that the office of the Excise Commissioner is well managed and that the collection of revenue which is done through the agency of the Excise Department is not in any way interfered with by the abolition of the post of Manager, which after all carries only a pay of Rs. 125 a month.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the post was in existence when the Assistant Excise Commissioner was also in the office?

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I believe so.

PRESIDENT: The time limit for this demand has expired. I shall have to put the motion to the vote.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I think I have said enough to show that the Manager's post must be revived.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I offer a word of explanation with respect to the words used by me.

PRESIDENT: You may offer the explanation after I put the motion to the vote.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, with your permission, may I bring to your notice a point of order? The mover as well as the official member have a right to speak.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I have nothing more to add.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I do not propose to speak further on the motion.

PRESIDENT: Then I shall have to put the motion to the vote of the House, if Mr. Kumara Pillai presses it.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I press it, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

PRESIDENT: The *Noes* have it.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:

AYES—18.

1. Mr. P. Habeeb Mahomed.	11. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai,
2. ,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	12. ,, Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
3. ,, A. K. Pillai.	13. ,, S. Piraviperumal Pillai.
4. ,, N. Kumaran.	14. ,, G. Raman Menon.
5. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.	15. ,, K. Sivarama Panikkar.
6. ,, Kallur Narayana Pillai.	16. ,, M. Sivatanu Pillai.
7. ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.	17, ,, M. Subrahmanya Pillai.
8. ,, K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.	18. ,, C. P. Tarakan.
9. ,, M. N. Pillai.	
10. ,, R. Padmanabhan	

NOES—26.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko	15. Mr. A. J. John
2. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	16. ,, Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
3. ,, K. George.	17. ,, W. H. Pitt
4. ,, K. I. Joseph	18. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose
6. ,, N. V. Joseph	19. Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
6. ,, S. Gnana Joshua	20. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar
7. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	21. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson
8. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman	22. ,, J. Stephenson
9. ,, X. G. Lopez	23. ,, S. Subrahmanya Karayalar
10. ,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai	24. ,, C. P. Thomas
11. ,, T. J. Mathew	25. ,, C. N. Tuppan Nambutiri
12. ,, K. Narayanan Pandalay	26. ,, A. J. Van Ross
13. ,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar	
14. ,, N. Nilakanta Pillai	

The motion was declared lost.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I suggest that the neutrals may also be recorded?

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The following were the neutrals:

NEUTRALS—3.

1. Mr. C. Kerala Varma Koiltampuran.
2. Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.
3. Mr. K. K. Thomas.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I now offer the explanation?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): While using the words I used, I never wanted to offend anybody nor attribute motives to anybody.

PRESIDENT: I accept that with pleasure.

The following motions, Nos. 50 to 61 lapse, as the time allotted for this demand has expired—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

50. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,433 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR:

51. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,433 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN:

52. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

53. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,68,084 for establishment by Rs. 25,620.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN:

54. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,68,084 for establishment by Rs. 25,620. (To abolish the cadre of Sub-Inspectors.)

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

55. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges.

Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR:

56. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,34,300 for Ranges by Rs. 100.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH:

57. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,30,558 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

58. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,100 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

59. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,100 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

60. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,100 for Customs by Rs. 100.

Motions for reduction of total grant under Demand III

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

61. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5 12 lakhs under Demand III by Rs. 100.

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I take it that the Demand of Rs. 5·12 lakhs under Demand III—Excise Department—is passed by the House.

The demand was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·95 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 62.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to move the following motion:

62. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for Establishment by Rs. 480.

The reasons for the reduction are generally the same as those which I expressed when making similar motions with regard to other offices. In this case, there is a Personal Assistant, a Manager and several other officers and clerks to help the Conservator. So, I hope it will not be in any way derogatory to the efficiency of the department to reduce one clerk on Rs. 40.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I may, in this connection, explain to the House that the Forest Department was reorganised only as recently as in 1098. Before the reorganisation, the Conservator's office was staffed by 28 clerks, besides three or four temporary clerks. But, after the reorganisation, the staff was reduced to 23, and the Manager was declared supernumerary. In the place of that supernumerary Manager, there was also a place of clerk on Rs. 40 left vacant. This reorganisation was effected during the time of my predecessor Mr. Raman Menon, and I had nothing to do with it. It is now three years since I took charge of the department, and ever since that time, I found that the staff was quite inadequate for the volume of work to be turned out. We had several instances in which large arrears accumulated, and, in this House itself we had heard of complaints that we had not paid promptly *kudivila* to some of the claimants. In that connection, I had asked for an additional staff of seven clerks both for my office and the Divisional Offices. At present, the staff in my office consists of only 23 clerks, but the brunt of the work is being borne by about a dozen clerks, the remaining clerks being mostly juniors. The result of all this is that, while the work had been accumulating, we are not also able to attend to the arrears which had accumulated. From the list which I have, here, I find that completion bills from 1085 onwards are pending, while *kudivila* claims amounting approximately to 2½ lakhs of rupees are still pending settlement. Objection statements of timber to be cleared alone come up to 400 and odd. Recently the work of answering interpellations has also added to this quota. Under these circumstances, I find that the reduction of hands will only throw off the equilibrium of the office and we may not be able to cope with the work.

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